

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01

AGRE-00 /064 W

-----031144 126012 /15

R 030400Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2795

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 0768

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, OCLR, NZ

SUBJECT: SEALING OF MEAT LOCKERS

1. EMBOFF MET MARCH 2 WITH MFA AMERICAS DIVISION HEAD, NEIL PLIMMER, FOR REVIEW OF MEAT LOCKER ISSUE. THIS FOLLOWS ON DISCUSSION I HAD THREE WEEKS AGO WITH SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CORNER AND MY EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THAT TIME THAT LITTLE PROGRESS WAS EVIDENT TOWARD RESOLVING MEAT LOCKER PROBLEM. CORNER PROMISED TO INVESTIAGE AND PLIMMER'S REPORT OF MARCH 2 WAS THE RESULT.

2. PLIMMER, WHO HAS BEEN DIVISION HEAD ONLY PAST MONTH, BEGAN CONVERSATION BY NOTING THAT QUEEN ELIZABETH'S FEBRUARY 28 SPEECH FROM THRONE OPENING NEW ZEALAND'S PARLIAMENT HAD INCLUDED BUT TWO FOREIGN POLICY REFERENCES -- ONE OF WHICH WAS PARAMOUNT ROLE ANZUS ALLIANCE PLAYS IN NEW ZEALAND'S SECURITY. AFTER
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READING PERTINENT PASSAGE -- QUOTE AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT AIM IS THE MAINTENANCE OF CLOSE LINKS FOR COLLECTIVE DEFENSE WITH NEW ZEALAND'S TRADITIONAL ALLIES, OF WHICH THE ANZUS PACT IS THE KEYSTONE UNQUOTE -- PLIMMER SAID THAT WITH THIS GOAL AS A BACKGROUND, GNZ WAS HOPEFUL FORMULA COULD BE FOUND WHICH (A) MEET USG NEEDS FOR TERMINATION OF MEAT LOCKER INSPECTIONS, (B) CONTINUES TO FULFILL NEW ZEALAND'S FUNDAMENTAL NEED TO PROTECT

ITS AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY, AND (C) DOES NOT ESTABLISH PERCEDENT FOR SIMILAR TREATMENT FOR OTHER NATIONS' VISITING NAVAL VESSELS.

3. PLIMMER SAID IN THIS REGARD IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF HE COULD ASSURE SENIOR MFA AND AGRICULTURE MINISTRY OFFICIALS THAT ISSUE CAN BE AND IS CONFINED TO (A) NAVAL VESSELS AND (B) MEAT LOCKERS. EMBOFF RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY THAT MATTER CAN BE CONFINED TO NAVAL VESSELS, WITH LIKELY EXCEPTION THAT U.S. COAST GUARD VESSELS WOULD WANT TO BE SIMILARLY TREATED. EMBOFF SAID THAT SINCE MEAT LOCKER RPT. MEAT LOCKER INSPECTION WAS THE ONLY TYPE OF INSPECTION RAISED BY GNZ AUTHORITIES IN PAST, WE ASSUMED GNZ WOULD CONFINE ITSELF TO THAT AREA. IN THE INTEREST OF CLARITY, HOWEVER, HE WANTED IT UNDERSTOOD THAT SHOULD THE GNZ AT A FUTURE DATE REQUEST ANY OTHER TYPE OF INSPECTION OF USG NAVAL VESSELS, THAT REQUEST WOULD BE REFUSED. PLIMMER SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND REPEATED THAT THE ISSUE AT HAND IS MEAT LOCKERS.

4. PLIMMER SAID HE WANTED ME, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND DEPARTMENT OF NAVY TO KNOW THAT GNZ IS "ACTIVELY SEIZED" OF MATTER. HE PRESENTED EMBOFF WITH PRO FORMA AIDE MEMOIRE ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF NOVEMBER 19 AIDE MEMOIRE FROM EMBASSY AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT "SUBSTANTIVE ANSWER TO EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATION CAN BE PROVIDED SOON". PLIMMER OFFERED HIS PERSONAL APOLOGY THAT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT HAD NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING SOONER AND THAT REPLY IN SUBSTANCE NOT YET READY.

5. PLIMMER REQUESTED ANSWERS TO TWO QUESTIONS CONCERNING HANDLING OF MEAT BY U.S. NAVY AND ABOARD U.S. NAVAL VESSELS. QUOTE (A) DOES THE U.S. NAVY MAINTAIN ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE SOURCE OF MEAT
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AND MEAT PRODUCTS LOADED ON WARSHIPS EITHER (I) IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES PORTS; OR (II) IN OTHER PORTS? (B) IS MEAT DESTINED FOR U.S. NAVY USE, PRIOR TO ITS ACCEPTANCE BY THE U.S. NAVY, STORED SEPARATELY FROM MEAT WHICH MAY COME FROM SOURCES NOT APPROVED FOR UNITED STATES NAVY USE? UNQUOTE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED
PARA 5.
SELDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: MPOL, OCLR, NZ, (PLIMMER, NEIL)
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